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peace even on the basis of the French control of the Low Countries. Fructidor, by a strange combination of circumstances, ruined the chances of peace with England, in spite of the efforts of Talleyrand, whose machinations are fully set forth. The Directors now desired to push the war against England vigorously and summoned Bonaparte to conduct a great attack upon the British coasts. He and Talleyrand secured the adoption of their counter-proposal of the expedition to Egypt. Meanwhile, there were in progress the negotiations at Rastatt and those of Sieyès in Berlin; Bernadotte had been on his fruitless mission to Vienna; but most serious of all, Bonapartist adherents, Italian patriots, ambitious generals, and greedy grafters, had rapidly forwarded the republican propaganda in Italy by their activities in Rome, Naples, and elsewhere. The Directors successfully checked the propaganda by preventing the amalgamation of the new republics and by the recall of Championnet. These and other acts served to postpone war with a second coalition, but the destruction of the French fleet in Aboukir Bay revealed the possibility of humbling France and so brought to being the Second Coalition. The retirement of Reubell from the Directory marked the disappearance of the policy of the natural frontiers. The revolutionary propaganda gave place to the Napoleonic imperialism.

GEORGE MATTHEW DUTCHER.

La Commune du Dix Août 1792: Étude sur l'Histoire de Paris du 20 Juin au 2 Décembre 1792. Par F. BRAESCH, Professeur Agrégé d'Histoire, Docteur ès Lettres. (Paris: Hachette et Cie. 1911. Pp. xviii, 1236.)

In this work M. Braesch takes the term "Commune" in its broadest sense covering all the organs through which the life of Paris expressed itself, and especially the sectional assemblies, in the action of which he finds the real explanation of municipal policy, and, in many cases, of political tendencies still more general. His narrative opens with the affair of June 20—the movement which then started leading directly to the formation of the Revolutionary Commune on the night of August 9—and closes with the dissolution of that body, December 2. The volume is the first part of a political history of the Commune during the Terror, which, like Mortimer-Ternaux, though with very different sympathies, M. Braesch thinks became an instrument of government, August 10. The treatment is not exclusively political, for the present volume contains chapters on the economic and religious situation.

M. Braesch believes that in order to set forth adequately the life of Paris in such a momentous period he must descend "résolument dans l'inextricable fouillis des faits". This he has done, as the size of the volume—1176 closely printed pages—indicates. So great is the interest of the facts, many of them hitherto unnoted, which make up his narrative, that no one will wish the treatment briefer. The volume is also long because it includes many detailed bibliographical notes and lists,

being intended to serve in part as an "instrument bibliographique". There appear, for example, in the course of the narrative calendars of the acts of the sections on important questions, and lists of officials with precise references to all sources of information, a "Résumé des délibérations des 48 sections de Paris pendant la nuit du 9 au 10 Août", and a "Liste des individus ayant fait partie du Conseil général de la Commune du 9 Août, à minuit, au 17 Août, au soir". Documents of unusual importance are also inserted in the text, instead of being relegated to an appendix.

The subject of deepest interest is the situation in Paris from the closing days of July, when the movement for the deposition of the king had become well defined, to September 6, when the massacres in the prisons ended. Suffice it to say that the author has contributed essentially to the comprehension of the subject, rendering especially clear the origin and character of the body which conquered a temporary dictatorship in Paris, the currents of opinion in the sections, the quarrels between the Conseil Général and the Girondin group in the Legislative Assembly, and the responsibilities for the Massacres of September. His strong democratic sympathies have not influenced him to withhold facts distinctly disagreeable to radical susceptibilities. Not a suspicion of "tendency writing" can be discovered in the volume. The characterization of the personnel of the Conseil Général, or, strictly speaking, the commissioners of the sections, is a fine example of candor in a man rather inclined to apply the epithet "réactionnaire" to any one who before August 10 attempted to defend the constitutional order against the extreme revolutionaries. He says that the most influential group among the commissioners was composed of "petits patrons" and artisans in the shops of such "patrons", who resembled "un grand enfant, foncièrement bon, mais naïf et faible, aussi prompt à s'emporter qu'à s'attendrir". But, he notes, there was a group of "légistes", "robins, tous ces disputeurs de profession qu'avaient fait vivre jusqu'alors les démêlés du boucher du coin avec le boulanger d'en face", and a group of literary men, including Hébert and Chaumette, who assume this designation to conceal the absence of any profession, and some of whom were "ratés, des aventuriers de toute espèce, véritables épaves de la lutte pour la vie".

M. Braesch's inferences are for the most part unquestionably sound but in a few cases they seem open to objection. One example is his conclusion that the revolution of August 10 was in great part the work of "citoyens passifs" who invaded the assemblies of their sections, displaced the majority, ordered the tocsin rung, and took arms from the royalists to use against the king. For all the evidence to the contrary, the "personnes inconnues" who, according to the procès-verbal of the section of Montreuil, invaded the sectional assembly at 1:45 A. M., and forced the despatch of commissioners to the Hôtel de Ville, may have been radicals from other sections, instead of "citoyens passifs" of that

section as M. Braesch concludes. The record says they were "personnes inconnues", and to go beyond that is guess-work.

H. E. BOURNE.

William Pitt and the Great War. By J. HOLLAND ROSE, Litt.D. (London: G. Bell and Sons. 1911. Pp. xiii, 596.)

IN this volume Mr. Rose concludes his notable biography of the younger Pitt. As indicated in the review of the preceding volume (AM. HIST. REV., XVII. 134) the career of Pitt is logically divided into two distinct periods, in the first of which he is to be judged for his administration of British finances and his efforts for parliamentary reform, while in the second he was plunged by forces beyond his control into the chaos of European politics and wars. The biographical method lends itself much less easily to the second period, for here the author must frequently devote pages to an analysis of general European diplomacy, before he can introduce to the reader's understanding, the activities of his hero. Mr. Rose himself writes that Pitt's "career now depended upon the issue of the gigantic strife", and that "the mighty drama dwarfs the actors". Thus the method of the second volume seems quite different from that of the first—is less simple, less direct, and in some degree less convincing. Mr. Rose shares with other English writers an apparent disdain of the critical bibliography, but to the student of the period it will be an exasperation, that but a page and a half of "chief works" used, is given, consisting of such undifferentiated materials as the *Malmesbury Diaries*, *Dropmore Papers*, "Pitt MSS.", Sorel's *L'Europe et la Révolution Française*, and Wraxall's *Memoirs*. Mr. Rose has shown in other writings that he understands perfectly the care with which Malmesbury must be checked for accuracy; that the one great weakness of Sorel's work is its treatment of English diplomacy; that Wraxall was first of all a malicious gossip. Certainly some indication should have been given in the list of the distinction to be drawn as to credibility between such works and the *Dropmore Papers* and the "Pitt MSS." Many other references are cited in foot-notes that do not appear in the initial list, but there also the author does not discriminate as to values. Miles's *Correspondence* appears, in fact, as a citation much more frequently than does Wraxall, though the former is not listed as a "chief work". This criticism, be it understood, is directed against the usefulness of the work, and not against the author's knowledge or discrimination, though occasionally he sins in citing but one indifferent authority for some doubtful point.

Turning to the merit of the work as a study of European conditions, and Pitt's relation to them, Mr. Rose must be congratulated for a distinctly able and readable book. It is true that one does not get much new light on Pitt's own personal characteristics, though the author has searched high and low for every additional scrap of evidence. A brief review cannot present details, but three main points are made again